

REMARKS

Claims 23-44 are pending in this application. Claims 23-30, 43, and 44 stand rejected and claims 31-42 are objected to. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 31-42. In light of the remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 23-30 and 43 stand rejected under 35 USC Section 102 (b) as the anticipated by US patent number 5,909,386 (Shiraishi). We respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Among the limitations of independent claim 23 not present in Shiraishi is a first and second logic function block providing a logic combination of the first and second input signal in accordance with a predeterminable logic subfunction.

As disclosed in present specification, the logic subfunction is predeterminable. In other words, the logic function can be varied based on a combination of factors. Thus, the logic subfunction is a variable subfunction that can be predetermined so that a logic combination of the input signals can be output by each of the logic function blocks.

In contrast, Shiraishi discloses a digital adder. The adder includes two switch circuits, switch circuit 1 and switch circuit 2. However, the switch circuits which comprise disclosed adder are not predeterminable as explicitly recited in the claims. The two switch circuits are fixed and therefore not predeterminable. Thus, Shiraishi fails to anticipate claims 23-30 and 43.

Claim 44 stands rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatenable under Shiraishi. We note that claim 44 depends from and includes all of the limitations

of claim 43 and 23. Thus, claim 44 is allowable for at least the reasons discussed above.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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